What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing aggregate-portion-specific flow shaping in packet-switched telecommunications, the method comprising:

- transferring digital information as constant or variable-length packets as at least two separate traffic flows,

- defining at least two shaping groups, each of which includes at least one of the at least two traffic flows,

- setting restrictions of speed properties for the at least two shaping groups,

- defining an earliest permitted moment, at which a packet can be forwarded, as a greatest value of Valid Time to Send -values of those at least two shaping groups, to which a traffic flow represented by the packet to be forwarded belongs, and

- as a result of forwarding the packet, updating the Valid Time to Send -values of the same shaping groups to which the forwarded packet belongs, a Valid Time to Send - value of each shaping group expressing an earliest permitted moment, at which a packet belonging under that shaping group can be forwarded without breaking restrictions of speed properties of that shaping group.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein all traffic flows contained in a first shaping group are also included in a second shaping group.

3. (Currently Amended) Equipment for performing aggregate-portion-specific flow shaping in packet-switched telecommunications, the equipment including:

- means for receiving constant or variable-length packets carrying digital information,

- means for classifying a packet arriving in the equipment as representing one of traffic

flows arriving in the equipment,

- means for defining at least two shaping groups, each shaping group including at least one of the traffic flows,

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- means for setting restrictions of speed properties for the at least two shaping groups,

- means for forwarding the packets to an outgoing link or links,

10   - means for defining an earliest permitted moment, at which a packet can be forwarded, as a greatest value of Valid Time to Send -values of those at least two shaping groups, to which a traffic flow represented by the packet to be forwarded belongs, and

- means for updating, as a response to forwarding the packet, the Valid Time to Send -
15   values of the same shaping groups to which the forwarded packet belongs, a Valid Time to Send -value of each shaping group expressing an earliest permitted moment, at which a packet under that shaping group can be forwarded without breaking restrictions of speed properties of that shaping group.

20   4. (Currently Amended) Equipment according to Claim 3, wherein the equipment includes means for defining all traffic flows contained in a first shaping group to belong also to a second shaping group.